

A DECLARATION

BY THE

Kings Majesty.

To *His* Subjects of the

KINGDOMS

OF

Scotland, England, and Ireland.



PRINTED, 1650.

DECLARATION

BY THE

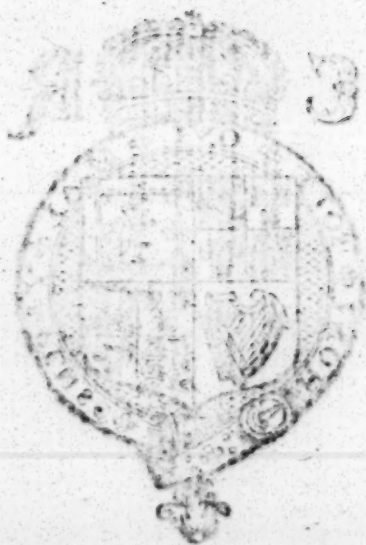
Kings Majesty.

To His Subjects of the

KINGDOMS

OF

Great Britain, Ireland, and Wales.



PRINTED, 1701.



A
D E C L A R A T I O N
B Y T H E

Kings Majesty

*To His Subjects of the Kingdoms of Scotland,
England, and Ireland, Printed at Edinburgh. 1650.*

Seſt. I.

HIs Majesty taking in consideration, that merciful dispensation of Divine Providence, by which he hath been recovered out of the snare of evil Counsel, and having attained so full perswasion, and conscience of the Loyalty of his people in *Scotland*, with whom he hath too long stood at a distance; and of the righteousness of their Cause, as to joyn in one Covenant with them, and to cast himself and his interests wholly upon God, and in all matters Civil, to follow the Advice of his Parliament, and such as shall be intrusted by them; and in all matters Ecclesiastical, the Advice of the General Assembly and their Commissioners; and being sensible of his duty to God, and desirous to approve himself to the consciences of all his good Subjects, and to stop the mouths of his and their Enemies and Traducers, doth in reference to his former deportments, and as to his Resolutions for the future, Declare as follows.

Seſt. II. Though his Majesty as a dutiful son be obliged to honor the memory of his Royal Father, and have in estimation the person of his Mother; yet doth he desire to be deeply humbled and afflicted in spirit before God, because of his Fathers hearkening to, and following evil Counsels, and his opposition to the work of Reformation, and to the Solemn League and Co-

nant, by which so much of the blood of the Lords people hath been shed in these Kingdoms; and for the Idolatry of his Mother, the toleration whereof in the kings house, as it was matter of great stumbling to all the Protestant Churches, so could it not but be an high provocation against him who is a jealous God, visiting the sins of the Fathers upon the children: And albeit his Majesty might extenuate his former Carriages and actions in following the advice, and walking in the way of those who are opposite to the Covenant, and to the work of God, and might excuse his delaying to give satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of Scotland, from his education, and age, and evil counsel, and company, and from the strange and insolent proceedings of Sectaries against his Royal Father; and in reference to Religion and the antient Government of the Kingdom of England, to which he hath the undoubted right of Succession; yet knowing that he hath to do with God, he doth ingeniously acknowledg all his own sins, and all the sins of his Fathers house, craving pardon, and hoping for mercy and reconciliation through the blood of Jesus Christ. And as he doth value the constant addresses that were made by his people to the Throne of grace on his behalf, when he stood in opposition to the work of God, as a singular testimony of Long-suffering, patience and mercy upon the Lords part, and loyalty upon theirs; so doth he hope, and shall take it as one of the greatest tokens of their love and affection to him and to his Government, that they will continue in Prayer and Supplication to God for him; That the Lord who spared and preserved him to this day, notwithstanding of all his own guiltiness, may be at peace with him, and give him to fear the Lord his God, and to serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind all the days of his life.

Sett. III. And his Majesty having upon full perswasion of the Justice and Equity of all the Heads and Articles thereof, now sworn and subscribed the National Covenant of the Kingdom of Scotland, & the Solemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms of Scotland, England and Ireland, doth declare, That he hath not sworn and subscribed these Covenants, and entred into the Oath of God with his people, upon any sinister intention and crooked design, for attaining his own ends; but so far as humane weakness will permit, in the truth and sincerity of his heart: And that he is firmly resolved, in the Lords strength to adhere thereto, and to prosecute to the utmost of his power all the ends thereof, in his station and calling, really, constantly and sincerely all the days of his life. In order to which, he doth in the first place profess and Declare, That he will have no enemies but the enemies of the Covenant; and that he will have no friends but the friends of the Covenant: And therefore as he doth now detest and abhor
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all Popery, Superstition and Idolary, together with Prelacy, and all Errors, Heresie, Schism and Prophaneess, and resolves not to tolerate, much less allow any of these in any part of his Majesties, Dominions, but to oppose himself thereto, and to indeavour the Exterpation thereof to the utmost of his power; so doth he as a Christian Exhort, and as a King require, that all such of his Subjects, who have stood in opposition to the Solemn League and Covenant, and Work of Reformation, upon a pretence of Kingly Interest, or any other pretext whatsoever, to lay down their Enmity against the cause and people of God, and to cease to prefer the intterest of Man to the Interest of God; which hath been one of those things which hath occasioned many Troubles and Calamities, in these Kingdomes, and being insisted into, will be so far from Establisshing of the Kings throne, that it will prove an Idol of Jealousie, to provoke unto wrath him who is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. The King shall alwayes esteem them best Servants, and most Loyal Subjects, who serve him, and seek his greatness in a right line of subordination unto God; *Giving unto God the things that are Gods, and unto Caesar the things that are Caesars*: And resolveth, not to love or countenance any who have so little Conscience and Piety, as to follow his interests with a prejudice to the Gospel and the Kingdome of Jesus Christ, which he looks not upon as a duty, but as flattery, and driving of Self-Designe, under a pretence of maintaining Royal Authority and Greatness. *Secondly*, His Majesty being convinced in conscience of the exceeding great Sinfulness and Unlawfulness of that treaty and peace made with the Bloody *Irish* Rebels, who treacherously shed the blood of so many of his Faithful and Loyal Subjects in *Ireland*, and of allowing unto them the liberty of the Popish religion; For the which he doth from his heart desire to be deeply humbled before the Lord: and likewise considering how many breaches have been upon their part, doth Declare the same to be void, and that his Majesty is absolved therefrom; being truly sorry that he should have sought unto so unlawful help of restoring of him to his throne, and resolving for the time to come, rather to choose Affliction then Sin. *Thirdly*. As his Majesty did in the late treaty with his people in this Kingdom agree to recal and annul all Commissions against any of his Subjects who did adhere to the Covenant and Monarchical Government in any of his Kingdoms: So doth he now declare, that by Commissionating of some persons by Sea against the people of *England*, he did not intend damage or Injury to his oppressed and harmless Subjects in that Kingdome, who follow their Trade of Merchandize in their lawful callings, but only the opposing and suppressing of those who had Usurped the Government; and not only bar him from his just Right, but also exercise an arbitrary power over his people, in those things which concern

cern their persons, consciences and estates: And as since his coming into *Scotland* he hath given no Commissions against any of his Subjects in *England* or *Ireland* so he doth hereby assure and declare, that he will give none to their prejudice or damage, and whatever shall be the wrongs of these Usurpers, That he will be so far from avenging these upon any who are free thereof, by interrupting or stopping the liberty of Trade & Merchandize, or otherwise, that he will seek their good, and to the utmost employ his Royal power, that they may be protected and defended against the unjust violence of all men whatsoever. And albeit his Majesty desires to construct well of the intentions of those (in reference to his Majesty) who have been active in Council or arms against the Covenant; yet being convinced that it doth conduce for the honor of God, the good of his Cause, and his own honor and happiness, and for the peace and safety of these kingdoms, that such be not employed in places of power and trust, He doth Declare, that he will not employ, nor give Commissions to any such, until they have not only taken, or renewed the Covenant, but also have given sufficient evidences of their integrity, carriage and affection to the Work of Reformation, and shall be declared capable of Trust by the Parliament of either Kingdom respective: And his Majesty upon the same grounds, doth hereby recal all Commissions given to any such persons, conceiving all such persons will so much tender a good understanding betwixt him and his Subjects, and the settling and preserving a firm peace in these Kingdoms, That they will not grudge nor repine at his Majesties Resolutions and Proceedings herein, much less upon discontent act any thing in a divided way, unto the raising of new Troubles, especially since upon their pious and good deportment there is a Regress left unto them in manner above expressed.

Seet. IV. And as his Majesty hath given satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, so doth he hereby assure & declare, That he is no less willing and desirous to give satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of his good Subjects in *England* and *Ireland*; and in token thereof, if the Houses of Parliament of *England*, sitting in freedom, shall think fit to present unto him the Propositions of peace, agreed upon by both Kingdoms, he will not only accord to the same, and such alterations thereanent, as the Houses of Parliament, in regard of the Constitution of affairs, and the good of his Majesty and his Kingdoms, shall judge necessary, but do what is further necessary for prosecuting the ends of the Solemn League and Covenant, especially in those things which concern the Reformation of the Church of *England*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government; That not only the Directory of Worship, the Confession of Faith and Catechism, but also the Propositions and Directory of Church-Govern.

Government, accorded upon by the Synod of Divines at *Westminster*, may be settled; and that the Church of *England* may enjoy the full Liberty and Freedom of all Assemblies, and power of Kirk-Censures, and of all the Ordinances of Jesus Christ, according to the rule of his own word: And that whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, may be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven; and, what ever heretofore hath been the suggestion of some to him, to render his Majesty jealous of his Parliament, and of the Servants of God: Yet as he hath declared, that in *Scotland* he will hearken to their Counsel, and follow their Advice in those things that concern that Kingdome and Kirk; So doth he also declare his firm resolution, to manage the Government of the Kingdome of *England* by the Advice of his Parliament, consisting of an house of Lords and of an house of Commons there; and in those things that concern Religion, to prefer the counsels of the Ministers of the Gospel to all other Counsels whatsoever. And that all the world may see how much he tenders the safety of his people, and how precious their blood is in his sight, and how desirous he is to recover his Crown and Government in *England* by peaceable means; as he doth esteem the service of those who first engaged in the Covenant, and have since that time faithfully followed the ends thereof, to be duty to God, and Loyalty to him; so is he willing, in regard of others who have been involved in these late Commotions in *England*, against Religion and Government, to pass an act of Oblivion, excepting only some few in that Nation who have been chief Obstructors of the work of Reformation, and chief Authors of the change of the Government, and of the Murther of his Royal Father. Provided, That these who are to have the benefit of this Act, lay down Arms, and return unto the Obedience of their lawful Sovereign.

Sect. V. The Committee of estates of the Kingdom, and General assembly of the Kirk of *Scotland*, having declared so fully in what concerns the Sectaries, and the present designs, Resolutions and Actings of their Army against the Kingdom of *Scotland*: And the same Committee and Assembly having sufficiently laid open publique Dangers and Duties, both upon the right hand and upon the left, it is not needful for his Majesty to add any thing thereunto; except, That in those things he doth commend and approve them, and that he resolves to live and dye with them, and his Loyal Subjects, in prosecution of the Ends of the Covenant.

Sect. VI. And whereas that prevailing party in *England*, after their strange Usurpations, and insolent Actions in the Land, Do not onely keep his Majesty from the Government of that Kingdome by force of Arms, but also have now Invaded the Kingdome of *Scotland*, who have deserved better things at their hands, and against whom they have no just quarrel; His Majesty

Majesty doth therefore desire and expect, that all his good Subjects in *England*, who are and resolve to be faithfull to God and to their King, according to the Covenant, will lay hold upon such an opportunity, and use their utmost endeavors to promote the Covenant, and all the ends thereof; and to recover and re-establish the Ancient Government of Kingdome of *England* (under which, for many generations, it did flourish in peace and plenty at home, and in Reputation abroad) and Priviledges of the Parliamēt, and Native and just Liberty of the people: His Majesty desires to assure himself, that there doth remain in these so much confidence, of their duty to Religion, their King and Country, and so many sparkles of the ancient English Valor, which shined so eminently in their Noble Ancestors, as will put them on to bestir themselves, for the breaking the Yoke of those mens oppressions from off their Necks: shall men of Conscience and honour set Religion, Liberties and Government at so low a rate, as not rather to undergo any hazard, before they be thus deprived of them? Will not all generous men count any death more tolerable, then to live in servitude all their days? And will not Posterity blame those who dare attempt nothing for themselves, and for their Children, in so good a Cause, in such an Exigent? Whereas if they gather themselves, and take courage, putting on a resolution answerable to so Noble and just an Enterprize, they shall honor God, and gain themselves the reputation of Pious men, worthy Patriots, and Loyal Subjects, and be called *The Repairers of the Breach*, by the present and succeeding Generations; and they may certainly promise to themselves a Blessing from God, upon so just and honorable undertaking for the Lord, and for his cause for their own Liberties, their Native King and Country, and the unvaluable good and happiness of their Posterity. Whatever hath formerly been his Majesties guiltiness before God, and the bad success that those have had who owned his Affaires, whilst he stood in Opposition to the work of God; yet the state of the question being now altered, and his Majesty having obtained Mercy to be on Gods side, and to prefer Gods interest before his own, he hopes, that the Lord will be gracious, and countenance his own cause in the hands of weak and sinfull instruments, against all Enemies whatsoever. This is all that can be said by his Majesty at present, to those in *England* and *Ireland*, at such a distance; and as they shall acquit themselves at this time in the active discharge of their necessary duties, so shall They be accepted before God, endeared to his Majesty, and their names had in remembrance throughout the World. Given at our Court at *Dunfirmlin* the sixteenth day of *August*, 1650. and in the second year of our Raign.

FINIS.

